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USSR TRACTOR AND AGRICULTURAL  
 MACHINE BUILDERS FACE NEW TASKS

MINISTER OUTLINES TRACTOR AND FARM MACHINE GOALS -- Moscow, Pravda, 3 Oct 53

In the postwar period, USSR agriculture has received more than 9.5 million agricultural machines and implements, several hundred thousand tractors, more than 200,000 grain combines, a large number of motor vehicles, and other machines.

To achieve the level of mechanization in animal husbandry and fodder growing outlined by the September Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, the Ministry of Machine Building will have to produce in 1954 twice as many, and in 1955 three times as many machines for this purpose as the amounts indicated in the 1953 plan. In the field of potato and other vegetable growing machines, 1954 output will have to be increased 4.3 times, and 1955 output 7.2 times, in comparison with the 1953 planned output, to conform to the new goals.

The following numbers of hay machines will be produced in 1954 - 1955: 50,000 pickup-rickers (as compared with 4,500 originally scheduled for the Fifth Five-Year Plan), 85,000 hay stackers, and 101,000 tractor sweep rakes. In the same period, the following amounts of potato and other vegetable growing machines are to be produced: 45,000 four-row checkrow potato planters, 40,000 potato harvesting combines, 30,000 tractor-mounted cultivator-hillers, 17,000 transplanting machines, and 22,000 cultivator-fertilizers.

For such machines as hay stackers, transplanting machines, and vegetable planters, the new 1954 - 1955 goals call for an increase in production seven times as great as originally planned for these 2 years; while output of pickup-rickers and potato harvesting combines will be increased ten times as much as originally planned. Similar increases should be achieved for a number of machines.

The Main Administration of Agricultural Machine Building and its enterprises have major tasks ahead of them. The Belinsk'sel'mash Plant has been assigned to produce potato planters. The Ryazan' Ryazsel'mash Plant and the Tula Combine Plant are organizing the mass production of potato harvesting combines. The

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Khar'kov Serp i Molot Plant is preparing to produce pickup-rickers, the Rostov-on-Don Rostsel'mash Plant is getting ready to build self-propelled mowers, the Gomel' Gomsel'mash Plant and the Pervomaysk Agricultural Machine Building Plant are to build hay stackers, and the Lyubertsy Agricultural Machine Building Plant imer. Ukhtomskiy is preparing for the output of mowers. All these plants, and other plants assigned to build agricultural machinery, should make preparations to attain a level of production in 1953 that will guarantee fulfillment of the 1954 plan.

In 1953 - 1955, plant design bureaus and scientific research institutes of the Ministry of Machine Building are to develop and prepare for production more than 60 new agricultural machine designs, especially machines for growing potatoes and other vegetables, and machines for mechanizing tasks in animal husbandry.

The immediate assignment of the design bureau of the Kirovograd Krasnaya Zvezda Plant is to develop checkrow vegetable planters and to design a new checkrow planter for corn, sunflowers, and castor beans. Designers of the Rostov-on-Don Krasnyy Aksay Plant are to develop and improve a series of cultivators and fertilizing attachments. Designers of the Gomsel'mash Plant are to develop a reliable feed-processing unit, an ensilage tamper and loader for pits and silos, and other machines.

The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Agricultural Machine Building should play the leading role in this design work.

Motor vehicle enterprises are being assigned the task of building loading and unloading mechanisms and transport equipment for agriculture. Motor vehicle designers are working on self-unloading tractor and truck trailers and loading and unloading devices for potatoes, other vegetables, and various farm products.

The Minsk Motor Vehicle Plant has organized a special design bureau and an experimental shop which will submit for state testing in 1954 self-unloading tractor trailers for medium and heavy tractors, self-unloading trailers for trucks and small tractors, a tractor dump trailer for removing brush and wood in rough country, and other transport and loading and unloading equipment.

Chemical machine building designers must quickly develop a mobile unit for water supply on remote pastures. Such a unit would include a submerged pump and a high-productivity steam generator.

The large volume of work described above will make it necessary for designers and scientific research workers of the Ministry of Machine Building to reorganize their programs, speed up design work, and eliminate shortcomings in their operations.

The present situation, in which it takes several years to design some machines, is intolerable. Up to now, experimental models of farm machines have been tested only during the regular season, but, in view of the many climatic zones in the USSR, there is no reason why a machine cannot be tested at any time of the year.

The September Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, decreed that no less than 500,000 (in terms of 15-horsepower units) general-purpose tractors will be delivered for agricultural purposes in the period from 1954 to 1 May 1957. As of 1 February 1953, there were 108,000 plowing tractors in use in USSR agriculture. In a little more than 3 years, 250,000 new plowing tractors will be produced.

The Minsk Tractor Plant is preparing for the series output of 36-horsepower Belarus' wheel plowing tractors, but preparations for production are seriously behind schedule.

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Preparations are being made at the Lipetsk Tractor Plant for a considerable increase in the output of KDP-35 crawler plowing tractors powered by diesel engines.

The Vladimir Tractor Plant is taking too much time in replacing the obsolete Universal tractor with a new tractor of modern design.

Machine tool building plants of the ministry must, in a very short time, build a number of special unit-type machine tools and automatic lines for the production of agricultural machines and tractors.

Soviet industry is timid and hesitant about introducing the latest advances into farm machine designs, and, as a result, turns out low-quality machines. Work on a combine for harvesting grain in northern regions has been dragging on for a long time. Potato sorters and loaders and other important machines have yet to be built. The S-4 combine does not meet the requirements of agriculture, especially in regions with heavy rainfall, and its shortcomings have not yet been corrected.

The reject rate is still high, labor consumption and the production cost of products are high, and the quality of machines and spare parts is low at ministry enterprises. The Ministry of Machine Building has worked out a number of measures to correct these conditions. First, the ministry intends to concentrate the output of a given mass-produced machine in one, or at the most, two plants, instead of dispersing production at many plants, as in the past. Such concentration will make it possible to organize constant-flow mass production of many machines.

Much work will have to be done in rebuilding and expanding tractor and agricultural machine building plants. The activities of scientific research institutes and plant design bureaus will have to be stepped up, and a new state special design bureau for vegetable growing machines must be organized.

There will be considerable expansion in the output of spare parts for tractors and farm machines, and special production of spare parts will be organized at a number of plants. -- S. Akopov, Minister of Machine Building USSR

TRACTOR, FARM MACHINE BUILDERS HOLD CONFERENCE -- Moscow, Pravda, 27 Sep 53

On 26 September 1953, the Ministry of Machine Building USSR concluded a conference of directors and chief engineers of tractor plants and agricultural machine building enterprises.

Stepanov, Deputy Minister of Machine Building, gave a report on the practical problems that face machine building plants in carrying out the decree of the Central Committee, CPSU, "Measures for the Further Development of USSR Agriculture." Twenty-five men took part in the discussion that followed, outlining specific measures now being taken to increase the output of machines and to improve their quality.

The Kharkov Tractor Plant has promised to fulfill its yearly plan ahead of schedule. The Tula Combine Plant is reorganizing its facilities for the production of potato harvesting combines, and has already turned out the first experimental models.

Delays in organizing the production of new agricultural machines at a number of plants were noted. Shortcomings in the Ministry of Machine Building's guidance of agricultural machine building enterprises were criticized.

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URGE GREATER EFFORT AT PLANTS -- Moscow, Pravda, 23 Sep 53

Accomplishment of the goals set forth for USSR agriculture by the September Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, depends on improved performance by the Stalingrad, Chelyabinsk, and other tractor plants, and also the Rostov-on-Don Rosizel'mash Plant, the Rubtsovsk Altaysel'mash Plant, the Kirovograd Krasnaya Zvezda Plant, the Lyubertsy Plant imeni Ukhtomskiy, and the Taganrog Combine Plant, all of which fill important orders for USSR agriculture. Assignments for the production of machines for growing and harvesting potatoes have been given to the Tula Self-Propelled Combine Plant, the Ryazsel'mash, Belinsk'sel'mash, gomsel'-mash and other plants. The Dnepropetrovsk Plant, which produces sugar-beet harvesting combines, must improve production technology, increase output, and improve the quality of its machines. The Tashkent Tashsel'mash Plant and other enterprises must quickly build new, improved machines for picking unopened cotton bolls.

The Ministry of Machine Building and the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine Building must expand production, improve quality, and reduce the production cost of spare parts for tractors and agricultural machinery; and they must supply these parts for agriculture in strict conformity with established norms and the complete products list Specified in orders?.

SOVIET TRACTORS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY TO GO TO ARGENTINA -- Vienna, Neue Wiener Tageszeitung, 8 Jul 53

According to a commercial agreement between Argentina and the USSR which is to be signed in a few days, the USSR will supply Argentina with agricultural machinery, especially tractors.

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